



Trinity United Church of Christ

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Unfolding Possibilities!

February 1, 2026
10:30 a.m.

In-Person Worship FB Live Streaming

The Mission of Trinity United Church of Christ:
*We exist to Love people where they are and
encourage them to grow in their relationship
with Jesus Christ.*

Meditation of the Week "The apostles remembered what many modern Christians tend to forget—that what makes the gospel offensive isn't who it keeps out but who it lets in." ~ Rachel Held Evans~

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Gathering

Feel the Spirit of the community. Worship is a time of both shared community and private conversation with God. Let us all come to this sacred space to enjoy both the loving fellowship of our common faith and the prayerful quiet that will allow us all to draw closer to God.

Prelude: Instrumental Music

Words of Welcome Pastor Katie

Announcements, Joys and Concerns Pastor Katie

***Call to Community** based on Micah 6:1-8 Sue Myers

One: With what shall we come before the Lord?

What shall we bring into the presence of our God,
as an expression of our worship and praise?

People: Shall we bring him all that we own—
our finest possessions, our life-savings,
our investments and property?

Would God be satisfied if we brought everything
we possess?

One: No, that's not what God is looking for.
God has told you what is good,
and what he expects of you:

People: To do justice.
To love mercy.
To walk humbly before him.

***Prayer for Peace**

***Passing of the Peace**

One: The Peace of Christ be always with you.
Many: And also with you

Pass a sign of God's Peace to one another.

***Opening Hymn: "Praise with Joy the World's Creator"**
#273 NCH

First Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 *The Message* Sue Myers
The wisdom and power of God

One: The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out. It's written,

People: I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head, I'll expose so-called experts as shams.

One: So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense? Since the world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered stupid—*preaching*, of all things! — to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.

People: While Jews clamor for miraculous demonstrations and Greeks go in for philosophical wisdom, we go right on proclaiming Christ, the Crucified. Jews treat this like an anti-miracle—and Greeks pass it off as absurd. But to us who are personally called by God himself—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one. Human wisdom is so cheap, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's "weakness."

One: Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. Everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God."

Growing Disciples

*Gloria, Gloria (Taizé)'

Children are dismissed for Children's Church

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Second Reading Micah 6:1-8 Sue Myers
What God requires of us

Choral Response "Thy Word" (sing 2 times)

Third Reading Matthew 5:1-12 Pastor Katie
Blessed

The Message *Blessings and Honor* *Pastor Katie*

WE RESPOND IN LOVE

Invitation to Generosity

*Choral Response "Doxology"

by Amanda Udis-Kessler (Tune: #780)

*Praise holy love that lives in all,
Our source, our path, our sacred call.
Enlarge the circle of our care
To bless all people everywhere.*

*Blessing Our Gifts

All: Liberator Christ, you went to the top of a mountain, and taught a sacred word about the meek and the grief stricken, about the lost and the lonely. Come to this place now, and by these gifts help us to see the world not as it is, but as it could be, that we may become good news to all. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation

***Hymn of Preparation “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine”**
#317 (Living Church) (requested by Marge Bailey)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Story

The Meal

The Charge

The Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn: “Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit”**
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (tune: #459 NETTLETON)

MOVING TOWARDS PEACE ON EARTH!

*** Benediction**

Prelude to Service

***Carrying the Light into the World**

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!

Worship Notes and Resources

Adapted from re: worship: Call to Worship: Micah 6, ucc.org/worshipways
The music in our worship is reproduced via our One License number: A-725765.

Leadership

Katie Penick
Hannah Matthews
Sue Myers

Pastor
Director of Music
Lay Reader

Deb Persinger
Sandy Sanders
Hannah Matthews
MB Brainerd

Worship Committee

The altar flowers this Sunday are in memory of Gerry Miller from her loving family.

Congregational Meeting

Annual Congregational Meeting **TODAY!**
We will begin with a potluck luncheon following the worship service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship at Trinity UCC for next week: February 8, 2026

Feb. 8 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading Corinthians 2:1-16

God’s Wisdom revealed through the Spirit

Second Reading Isaiah 58:1-12

The fast that God chooses

Third Reading Matthew 5:13-20

Salt and Light

The Message **Salty Love**

Scrip Gift Cards

Please consider taking part in this program.
Orders go in the 1st Sunday of the month.
See Sue Myers for more information, 443-375-6788 or wsmdem@comcast.net

Submission Dates for Bulletins/Newsletter

Sunday Worship bulletin – Wednesday
March Newsletters - Monday, February 23

Meeting Dates by Zoom

Consistory – Tuesday February 10 @ 6 pm

Worship Comm – Third Thursday of each month @ 3:30.

Pastor Katie Sabbath Day will be on Fridays! She will not be available on that day. If there is an emergency text, her @ 240-418-8028

Budget Information:

Amount needed from all sources each week to meet our budget: \$2,436.00.

No church last week.

We offer various ways to give – cash, checks, or on-line at our website www.trinityuccmanchester.org. Your generous giving allows us to continue our ministries.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concerns

Prayers are needed for our World at this difficult time and all those in need.

Prayer requests:

Carolyn Brooks

Annie Durnell

Joanna Garber

Eva Gebhardt, member of Trinity

Shannon Gettman, daughter of Diane

Meg Grim, daughter of Pastor Katie

Sandy Hall, sister of Deb Miller

George Harman, nephew of Karen Price

Jerry Krebs, friend of Deb Persinger

Michael Kulp

Ash Van Nuys

Jennifer Penick

Gordon Persinger

George Pietsch

Marc Pulido

Leah, friend of Donna Alban

Beth Robert

Jean Simmons

Becky & Willy Smith, niece of Karen Price

Dan and Terry Smith

Randy Smith

Kathleen Stevens

Gina Tollini

Ronnie Williams

Nora Renee Winters

Shirley Wood



**Sunday Morning Bible Study
at 9:15 a.m.**

**@Trinity and by Zoom
Zoom links are available for all Bible Study**



Bedtime stories on Wednesday at 7 pm.

Coat Drive

Throughout the winter months, we will have a designated box in the lower narthex to collect clean, gently used winter coats. The coats will be taken to NESAP on a weekly basis. All sizes, children and adults are welcomed. Please drop your donation(s) in the box. Please contact Sandy Sanders (443)974-6723 if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your donation(s)!



Easter Flowers

We will be taking spring flower orders again this year to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

We are asking sponsors to help defray the cost incurred by the church. Please pick up the order form in the narthex.

Orders are due by February 15th.

See Deb Persinger or Sandy Sanders with your order and payment.



Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather or other unforeseen emergencies, the decision to close the church will be made two hours before worship/meetings/workday begin. You will be notified by a text message or phone call if the church will not be opened.

Media Help Wanted

The media team is looking for persons to assist with the live stream of our Sunday services on the church's Facebook page.

You do not need to commit to every Sunday. Our current operators, Karen & Elwin will provide training and support.

Please see Sandy Sanders, Karen Haines or Elwin Wagner for more information.

Thank you in advance for considering to help with this valuable piece of our worship service.

Please pass on to any one you know in High School who may need community service hours.

Trinity U.C.C. Contact Information

Pastor: the Rev. Katie Penick Cell: 240-418-8028

E-mail: pastorkt143@gmail.com

Church Office 410-374-2727

Church e-mail – trinityuccmanchester@comcast.net

Website – www.trinityuccmanchester.org

Facebook - www.facebook.com/ManchesterUCC

President – Sandy Sanders

Vice President – Hannah Matthews

Secretary – Shana Clark

Treasurer – Sue Myers

